

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07

TRSE-00 IO-10 IGA-01 /083 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1630

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4852

E.O. 11652: GDS

RXTAGS: EAID, CB, SN

SUBJ: ESF CONTRIBUTIONS AND DECEMBER 5 MEETING IN MANILA -
SINGAPORE'S POSITION

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

REFS: (A) STATE 264950; (B) SINGAPORE 4797

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF INSTRUCTION, I AGAIN DISCUSSED ON DECEMBER 4
ESF WITH ONLY OFFICIAL AVAILABLE IN MFA, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS TAN BOON SENG. I EMPHASIZED ARGUMENT SET FORTH
PARA 2 REF A, BUT TAN WAS TOTALLY NONCOMMITTAL. HE NOTED THAT
KHMER AMBASSADOR WONGSANITH HAD APPOINTMENT TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER
RAJARATNAM AND THAT HE ASSUMED THIS MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT
THAT MEETING.

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2. DURING CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR WONGSANITH LATER SAME DAY,

HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM IN ORDER TO (A) TO GIVE HIM A LETTER FROM HIS PRIME MINISTER THANKING THE GOS FOR ITS EFFORTS IN NEW YORK AND ELSEWHERE ON BEHALF OF THE ASEAN RESOLUTION ON CAMBODIA IN THE UNGA AND (B) TO DISCUSS THE DECEMBER 5 ESF MEETING IN MANILA. WONGSANITH SAID HE WAS INFORMED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM WOULD SEE HIM ON DECEMBER 10 TO RECEIVE THE LETTER, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE ESF AND THAT WONGSANITH SHOULD TAKE THIS MATTER UP AT A LOWER LEVEL. WONGSANITH SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED THE ESF WITH TAN BOON SENG ON NOVEMBER 25, BUT WOULD TRY TO SEE HIM AGAIN. HOWEVER, HE WAS QUITE CERTAIN FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REFUSAL TO DISCUSS THE MATTER THAT THE GOS WOULD NEITHER ATTEND THE MANILA MEETING NOR PARTICIPATE IN ESF. COMMENT. I AM EQUALLY CONVINCED THAT THE GOS WILL NOT ATTEND THE MANILA MEETING AND NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION ON ESF. ALTHOUGH THE GOS MAY APPRECIATE THE ARGUMENT SET FORTH PARA 2 REF A, IT PROBABLY FEELS IT HAS ANTAGONIZED THE PRC AND ALIENATED SOME OF ITS NONALIGNED "FRIENDS" BY LOBBYING FOR THE ASEAN RESOLUTION IN NEW YORK AND ELSEWHERE. THERE-
FORE, IT IS MOST LIKELY GOS IS PREPARED TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION WHICH COULD BE CRITICIZED AS BEING PRO-GKR EVEN THOUGH SUCH AN ACTION COULD BE DEFENDED AS BEING CONSISTENT WITH ITS STAND AT THE UNGA. THEREFORE, UNLESS SINGAPORE'S ASEAN ASSOCIATES, AND ESPECIALLY INDONESIA, DECIDE TO SUPPORT ESF AND URGE GOS TO FOLLOW SUIT, IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN GOS WILL NOT DO SO. GRANT

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